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MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

Application of Heinz FOCKE of Verden, Germany; Dietrich BELOW of Verden, Germany; and

Kurt MEYER of Verden, Germany

PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR CHECKING ROD-LIKE

November 4, 2003

ARTICLES, IN PARTICULAR CIGARETTES

Assignee: FOCKE & CO. (GmbH & Co.)

Our Ref: Q-78288

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including seventeen (17) pages of specification including twenty-one (21) claims, an Abstract of the Disclosure and six (6) sheets of formal drawing (Figs. 1-6). The filing fee, together with the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney, will be submitted at a later date with the other required fees.

Priority is claimed from November 12, 2002, based on German Application No. 102 52 913.2. The certified copy of the priority document will be submitted at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Mion

Registration No. 18,879

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Date: November 4, 2003